

are adjacent to the parking areas could provide rear entrances, again adding to the attractiveness and convenience to shoppers. In short, the commercial area of downtown Maiden (and the outlying commercial areas) could be turned into two or more small "shoppers' malls" at an expense that would be much less than a complete downtown renewal or construction of one large mall.

Considerable cooperation among merchants would be required to implement such a CBD atmosphere in Maiden. The town would need to work closely with them as well on some projects such as parking areas where some costs might be shared in construction or in maintenance. Special sales promotion projects could be worked out with the merchants working as a group, just as the merchants do in some areas where special events are promoted by shopping center tenants as a group.

One other feature of the Land Development Plan for Maiden is that it discourages scattered commercial activity along the major traffic routes, such as some of US 321. This "strip development" offers numerous safety hazards to traffic in addition to generally unattractive operations that tend to spread into residential areas and become poor "neighbors". One additional spot for grouping additional commercial activity is indicated south of town, in the vicinity of the golf course.

Another point in regard to the future of commercial land uses in Maiden is the element of time. Some of the dilapidated buildings have been here for several years almost in their present state, and this has no doubt already had some ill effects in driving retail business from Maiden to neighboring shopping areas. As major travel routes are improved in the county, it is becoming easier to drive to Hickory or Lincolnton to shop, even for small items. Maiden needs to start now to improve the CBD